(d) No, Sir.

(e) Development of ports is an on-going process. An amount of Rs. 1782.96 crore from public funds, comprising budgetary support from the Central Government and internal and external budgetary resources (IEBR) of the ports concerned has been allocated for development of the major ports of Kolkata, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Tuticorin and Ennore in the 10th Five Year Plan. Apart from the above, plans are in hand to develop facilities involving private investment to the tune of Rs. 1751 crore in these ports.

Setting up of Ship Building Hubs

3837. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up two ship building hubs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had asked the Hindustan Shipyard and Cochin shipyard to prepare plans to expand their current facilities and to set up green field building facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government is exploring the possibility of setting up two international size Shipyards in the country subject to favourable technical analysis and feasibility study.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However; a provision of Rs. 69.01 crores has been earmarked in the Annual Plan 2005-06 of Hindustan Shipyard Limited for upgradation of infrastructural facilities for shipbuilding and ship repair. Cochin Shipyard Limited is also exploring the possibility of capacity addition of the Shipyard. The Public Sector Shipyards would take decisions in their best commercial interest for their capital investments.

Land for Sethu Samudram Project

3838. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to implement the Sethu Samudram Project